



# Heppner Gazette Times



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OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## Our Men In Service

WEIRD RITES FEATURE  
HINDU CHRISTMAS

Editor's Note—The following letter was sent to us by Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Stilwell, formerly of Ione, parents of Lt. Dale Stilwell, who is flying one of the transport planes for Uncle Sam in India.

29th Transport Group, 99th Sq. APO 467, care Postmaster, New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mom and Dad:

Life here has recently become more interesting. The natives are having their Hindoo Christmas, Oct. 4 to 9. The ceremony is quite unique. The priests make a huge 10-armed goddess from river clay and cover it with ornaments and beautiful lacquered designs. The complete idol shows a lion attacking a man who in turn is giving his life to protect the goddess. There are two attendants for the goddess, one of which is riding a stork-like bird. The whole affair takes months to mould and paint and is about six feet high and 10 feet across when completed. Off to the left is a wand or a willow branch covered with sacred cloth. Two priests preside over the whole ceremony. There are many candles, oil lamps and incense burners, always kept burning. The god is offered all types of food, the natives praying and chanting all the while. (This despite the fact that they are dying in India by the hundred of thousands of starvation).

Natives from all around come to have animals blessed and to pay tribute to the gods. They can eat meat but once a year, and the meat must be blessed by the gods. The priest makes a lot of false passes over the animal, sprinkles incense and water on him, reads from their bible, turns to the goddess and stands erect, falls on his knees and bumps his forehead on the ground and rises again. This performance is repeated five or six times, chanting all the while he then turns to the sacred bough, which is supposed to contain the Holy Ghost, and the bough waves from side to side. No one touches it and I still can't figure out just how they do it. If the bough does not nod or wave they must pay more and repeat the whole thing over again until it does.

When it nods, the goat, calf or chicken is placed on a sacrifice block and beheaded with a huge sword-like instrument about three feet long. The head must be completely severed with one blow or the meat cannot be eaten.

During the whole procedure a band is playing weird music. It sounds like a cross between negro tom toms and drums and Oriental flutes and reeds. It is a hair-raising blood-curdling sound, you can believe me. Native men with bells tied to their ankles perform a dance similar to a negro or American Indian war dance.

The animal heads are lined up before the goddess and are not removed until next day.

The men and their families are also blessed. The higher caste members place money in a bronze tray (there is a huge bronze tray to receive tribute) and the same ceremony is gone through again and again for each family.

People shout, the priests chant, etc., to the point of exhaustion. The man being blessed stands there like a bump on a log. Eventually a red dot is placed on his forehead and then it is all over.

Everybody can rest now until another victim comes along to be blessed, and there plenty of customers.

Lower castes receive a yellow cloth band on the arm instead of the dot.

Oh yes, they usually receive a gift  
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## Rationing Set-up Undergoes Change During Past Week

### Mileage Panel and Ride Sharing in Line For More Attention

A reorganization of the local rationing board was effected the past week-end when Harley Richardson of La Grande, field operations officer, was in attendance. Richardson spent from Friday afternoon until Sunday noon assisting with the work.

Some personnel changes were made but the names are being withheld pending acceptance by new man of the price panel, tendered appointees. Hanson Hughes, chairman's resignation due to ill health and successor within a few days. Fred Ross the board will announce his successor who has been working on the gas mileage situation at the Heppner Lumber company, was appointed on the mileage panel as a representation of labor.

Stricter observance of gas rationing regulations will be enforced from here out, according to the board. Every application for supplemental gasoline will be closely checked and those found not complying with the share-the-ride requirement will not be issued new B and C cards. This order refers in the main to employed groups, and individuals who make no effort to comply when taking trips to Pendleton, Portland and other points. The board wishes to emphasize that people contemplating trips of this nature should contact the rationing office to ascertain if there are others who wish to travel to the same point. There is a black board in the rationing office to help bring share-the-ride folks together and it is urged that all prospective travelers make use of it.

A new ruling in effect at the rationing office is the balancing of the gasoline consumption by the day. This has been made necessary through the placing of this district in an emergency area and this calls for careful estimating to obtain the county's gasoline quota.

## Armed Forces Get More County Men

Six more Morrow county men left Tuesday for induction centers to enter armed services for Uncle Sam. The list included one married man with three children—Gilbert Riley Pettys of Pendleton, formerly of Ione, who did not want to wait for his number to be called and asked that he be included with this group.

L. E. Dick Jr. and Richard Eugene "Dick" Ferguson of Heppner, Thomas Claude Huston, Ione and Daniel Leroy Ransier, Boardman, were accepted by the navy and have reported for training. George Gooddall Griffith, Morgan, was accepted by the marines and Pettys went into the army. The latter's wife and three children have gone to Boardman to live with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nate Macomber.

## WINTERTIME NO ASSURANCE AGAINST GRASS FIRES

Heppner's fire fighters are accustomed to receiving all kinds of calls but when they were asked for assistance Friday morning to fight a grass fire they were somewhat nonplussed. It was a fact, however, for a field on the Frank Swaggart place on Little Butter creek caught fire and caused some anxious moments until several neighbors arrived and helped get it under control. And this happened not many hours following a heavy fog which had enveloped the region for weeks,

## Ullrich, Schunk & Company Too Hot For Honker Squad

It was not a one-man team or a two-man team that battled it out with a snappy squad of casaba heavers from Arlington at the Heppner gym last Friday evening, but the accurate shooting of two of the Mustangs kept the visitors from getting too dangerous in the last half of the game and put the home quint in the win column.

Arlington got the first basket and looked like a winning aggregation in the early stages of the game. The Heppner lads were jittery and let numerous chances slip. As the game progressed this nervousness subsided and Ullrich and Schunk eventually got the range and began looping 'em in. It was a see-saw battle in the first half and evidently Coach Corwin told his boys what he thought of them during the intermission for when they came back for the second half they were prepared to do or die. The Honkers felt this attitude when Billy Ullrich threw three in a row from the same angle. It was a pretty fair evening for the fast little forward as he accounted for 20 points. Schunk didn't have such a bad evening, for he came through in the pinches from time to time to score 10 points. While these sharpshooters were garnering points, their teammates were busy solving the Arlington offense and defense, Runion, Edmondson and Parrish contributing their share to victory.

Final score, Heppner 38, Arlington 29.

This Friday evening Fossil will be on hand to wrest the honors from the Mustangs—if they can. Heppner seems to have hit stride and is playing a brand of ball that would look good on any floor. The boys ask only that the citizens turn out and give them a chance to display their wares.

## Greener Held on Assault Charge

Irvin Greener was released from the county jail Wednesday after bail in the amount of \$600 had been posted for his appearance in circuit court. He had been in jail since rested him on an assault and battery charge following a severe beating administered to Ray McRoberts soldier on furlough.

Two counts were filed against Greener, one in behalf of McRoberts and the other in behalf of Eldon Gammell. It is stated that Gammell was endeavoring to separate two dogs engaged in a fight and had mull to put the dog down and let picked up one of the animals. Greener is said to have told him Gammell the fight go on and upon Gammell refusal to do so, Greener struck him. McRoberts, standing nearby, protested to Greener and then so the story goes, Greener set upon McRoberts knocking him down and beating him severely.

## CANINE PERSONALITY GOES TO HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

Heppner lost one of its most prominent canine inhabitants this week in the death of Fritz, the property of Kemp Dick in particular and the Dick family in general—as well as a lot of friends. Fritz, 11 years old, whose lusty bark was to be heard wherever he chanced to be following a member of the family took sick last week and after suffering a few days surrendered his lease on life and sought greener pastures in the doggy happy hunting ground. The friendly old codger will be missed not only by the family but by the townspeople as well. His good behavior and superior intelligence marked him as a real gentleman of the canine world.

## SEWING MEETING

The American Legion auxiliary will have a sewing meeting Tuesday at the Oddfellows hall. The hour is 2 o'clock p. m.

## Early Bond Buying Urged By Committee

### County Beef Club Elects Officers

By Patty Majeske, aged 8  
The Morrow county beef club had its first organization meeting at the Orville Cutsforth home where some of the members bought their club calves. The next meeting was held at Bobby Buschke's home in Heppner where the election was held. Officers were president, Helmut Herman; vice president, Fay Cutsforth; secretary, Audrey Majeske and news reporter, Patty Majeske. Members besides officers are: Vesta Cutsforth, Fritz Cutsforth, Ingrid Hermann, Bobby Buschke, Jimmie Wightman, Ida Lee Chapel, and Louis Carlson. Record books were given to all members.

The next meeting was held at county agent's office Jan. 8 at which meeting Mr. Conrad talked on feeding club calves and a question box was held and all questions answered. Jean Rauch was elected as song leader. It was decided to hold our club meetings the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be Feb. 12 at the county agent's office.

## Bunkhouse Fire Endangers Home

Fire which destroyed the bunkhouse at the Dick Wightman home last Thursday night would have enveloped the Wightman residence but for the timely arrival of fire department equipment from Heppner. The bunkhouse was located a few feet from the northwest corner of their residence and had there been a wind at the time it is doubtful if the house could have been saved.

Responding to the alarm and request for help, the fire department took chemical equipment to the scene of the blaze, which by that time was rapidly consuming the house. When the department arrived it was quickly decided to push in the walls and keep the flames from jumping to the residence. As it was the back walls of the home were scorched.

This was the initial call for the department under the leadership of Blaine Isom who was elected chief of the department a few weeks ago replacing Bill Cox who resigned.

## 3-A COMMITTEE CHECKING TRASHY SUMMERFALLOW

The county AAA committee is spending some time this week checking trashy summerfallow over the county. Due to the manpower shortage the AAA office has attempted to operate this fall and winter without a field supervisor. In most cases this has proved very satisfactory, although some difficulty has been experienced in determining trashy fallow by remote control.

The payment for protecting fallow by the trashy method is not intended to be a gift but is to compensate for the extra trouble and expense caused when this type of farming is used. The committee is trying to determine who has earned this payment.

## CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE BRINGS IN \$927 TO DATE

Mrs. K. A. House, Morrow county seal sale chairman, reports a total of \$927 collected from Christmas seals to date. Many persons have not yet returned their contribution or seals. It is never too late to send your contribution to the Christmas seal campaign, Mrs. House points out. No amount is too little or too late.

The Morrow county health association has expressed thanks to the people of the county for their generous contributions.

Citizens of Morrow county, Uncle Sam wants you to lend him a lot of money. He wants you to lend it right now—just as fast as you can get to the bank or your local post office. Through his local representatives, the Morrow county war loan committee, as he is asking that you step up to the line by Feb. 1. He argues that all of us know we will have to buy bonds and there is no use delaying the action. If after Feb. 1 you have not made your purchase he will send his emissaries to wait upon you and these emissaries are hoping they will not have to call upon you.

This appeal is made as the first days of the campaign reveal that not much interest is being shown. Past experience has been that the first few days brought out a large number of buyers it being the desire of some to be the first to purchase bonds in the current issue. The co-chairmen, P. W. Mahoney and B. C. Pinckney expect an upward trend in bond buying this week-end as farmers are conserving gasoline and are more apt to come to town the latter part of the week particularly Saturday. For the same reason, the chairmen urge that purchases be speeded up so that the bulk of the buying will be attended to by Feb. 1. Gasoline is becoming scarcer and any saving effected will in itself be a direct contribution to the war effort.

As stated before, special emphasis is being placed on "E" bonds in the fourth war loan campaign. Although the county quota is less than the third war loan, the "E" allotment is larger. This means that some who have bought heavily of other series in previous campaigns will need to buy generously of the smaller type. They represent a savings account to the investor while providing the government with much-needed funds with which to prosecute the war. "E" bonds bought now will be redeemable in 1954, more than likely at a time when new homes, farm implements, or business expansion are undertaken or when the little Johnny and Mary of today will be preparing to go to college.

The co-chairmen feel that Morrow county will go over the top as it has in past campaigns and are anxious to see the bulk of the buying done before the end of January. If at that time the quota has not been met and the records show that some have bought lightly who are in a position to buy heavily an opportunity will be given them to make additional purchase.

## SWEEK FAMILY HAS REUNION

Arrival of Pvt Ned Sweek from Camp Rucker, Ala., was the signal for a reunion of the R. L. Sweek family. Ned arrived Wednesday and was welcomed here by Mr. and Mrs. George Robinson of Los Angeles, Mrs. George Capon of Kimberly and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sweek of Monument all of whom have been visiting since last Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Couture and Miss Edith Sweek here. All of the family is here except one son residing in Portland who was unable to get away at this time.

## E. D. McMILLAN PASSES

Funeral services for Elbert Dyer McMILLAN, 74, were held Wednesday afternoon from the Christian church in Lexington, Rev. Cecil Warner, pastor of the Christian church in Herniston, officiating. Mr. McMILLAN passed away Sunday at his home at Lexington.

## DISTRIBUTOR ILL

Ralph Beamer has been "off the milk wagon" the past week due to a run in with old man flu. At last report he is about to get the best of the intruder and expects to be back distributing milk in a few days.